देश में चाय के मूल्यों में भारी वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार देश के बाजार में चाय के मूल्यों को कम करने के लिए चाय के निर्यात पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके कारण क्या हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह) : (क) वर्ष 1989 की शुरूआत से ही भारतीय नीलामियों में चाय की कीमतों में वृद्धि होने की प्रवृत्ति परिलक्षित हो रही हैं जिसका मुख्य कारण दक्षिण भारत में जाड़े के महीनों में उत्तर-पूर्व मानसून के न आने के साथ-साथ उत्तर भारत के कुछ चाय उपजवार्ता क्षेत्रों में प्रतिकूल जलवायु की परिस्थितियों का होना है ।

(ख) और (ग) सरकार चाय के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के किसी भी प्रस्ताव पर विचार नहीं कर रही है। चाय के संबंध में सरकार का उद्देश्य इसे घरेलू बाजार में उचित कीमतों पर उपलब्ध करने के साथ-साथ चाय के निर्यात से अधिकाधिक विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करना है ।

Supply of cotton yarn at subsidised rate

*53. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of handloom weavers recently met him to putforth their demand for the supply of cotton yarn at a subsidised rate so as to save the handloom industry ; and

(b) it so, what are the details in this regard and what steps have been taken by Government to meet their demand?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(i) The main demands made by the delegation are :—

(1) Statutory levy of 20% of the hank yarn from the private/State sector mill and distribution through agencies like NHDC, Handloom Export Promotion Council, State Handloom Apex Bodies and Corporation etc. ;

(2) 10% subsidy on the rates of cotton hank yarn at the rates that prevailed in January 1989 ; and

(3) Effective steps to enforce the Policy of Reservation.

(ii) Operation of levy system of procurement with its operational difficulties does not appear to be necessary as their is no over all shortage of yarn and the temporary shortage of specific counts can be overcome by timely intervention of NHDC. As regards subsidising cotton hank as demanded in (2) above, there are many practical difficulti es in resorting to such an arrangement because wider differential thereon on prices of hank yarn and cone yarn could lead to diversion of hank yarn to other than handloom sector.

(iii) In pursuance of provisions of new Textile Policy, 1985 Government has enacted the Handloom

(Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 and reserved 22 items for Exclusive production by handlooms. A number of powerloom organisations all over the country have filled Writ petition against the handloom reservation notifications and also against cettain provisions of the Handloom Reservation Act in various High Courts and obtained stay orders. Since the point of Law involved in all the cases was the same. These petitions were transferred to Supreme Court of India and are now at the final stage of hearing. Government is taking vigorous steps to get the stay orders pending before the Supreme Court vacated.

In response to the points made by the aforesaid delegation of handloom weavers a meeting was convened of all concerned by the Textile Minister of 17th July, 1989. In this meeting the representatives of the Associations of spinning mills have agreed to take steps to arrest further rise in prices of yarn and supply yarn on priority to the National Handloom Development Corporation, on the basis of film advance indents. They also undertook to increase the production of hank yarn in the counts which are currently in short supply and supply them at competitive prices. It has further been decided to set up a Yarn Price Monitoring Committee with a view to (a) monitor the price fluctuations of yarn (b) assess availability of crucial units of hank yarn and (c) ensure production of hank yarn in accordance with the Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme. The Committee will be headed by the Textile Commissioner and will consist of Development Commissioner for Handlooms, representatives of Associations of spinning mills and other connected interests. The Committee will meet every quarter.

Smuggling on the Indo-Pak Border

*54. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sudden spurt in the smuggling activities on the Indo-Pak border along Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat ;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor ; and

(c) what precautionary measures have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) and (b) The value of contraband goods seized by the Customs Authoritiy in the Indo-Pak sector of the land borders during the last few years is given below :—

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1985	15.73
1986	26.35
1987	31.71
1988	26.39
1989	17.21
(Upto April)	(Provisional)

The Increase in the value of seizures effected in 1989 need not necessarily mean a spurt in smuggling activities and it could be due to intensified anti-smuggling effort.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout